Application No. 10/583,840

Response dated: February 4, 2009

Reply to Restriction Requirement of: January 5, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a PHA block copolymer having orientation-induced rubber-elasticity and temperature-sensitive shape memory effects by biosynthesis using microorganisms, comprising

wherein the PHA block copolymer comprises:

a plurality of 3-hydroxybutyrate (3HB) blocks of Formula 1 as a repeating unit:

$$(-O-CH-CH_2-C-)_m$$
 $|CH_3|$
 $(Formula 1)$

wherein m is not less than 2; and

a plurality of 3-hydroxyvalerate (3HV) blocks of Formula 2 as a repeating unit:

$$-(-O-CH-CH_2-C-)_n$$
 $|CH_2-C-)_n$
 $|CH_2-C-)_n$
 $|CH_3-CH_3-CH_3$
(Formula 2)

wherein n is not less than 2; and

the PHA block copolymer is prepared using saturated and/or unsaturated carboxylic acid as a carbon source and a *Pseudomonas* sp. HJ-2 strain (Accession No. KCTC 0406 BP).

2. (Currently Amended) The <u>method for preparing the PHA</u> block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the block copolymer is heated to a temperature ranging from a melting point to thermal decomposition temperature thereof, thereby preparing a permanently deformed particular shape, and the permanently shaped material is subjected to constant external force at near room temperature for a predetermined period of time, thereby forming a shaped material having a temporary shape.

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3. (Currently Amended) The <u>method for preparing the PHA</u> block copolymer according to claim 2, wherein the temporarily shaped material is rapidly recovered to its original state of the permanently shaped material by heating the temporarily shaped material to a temperature ranging from a glass transition temperature to melting point thereof.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The <u>method for preparing the PHA</u> block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the content of 3HV in the total monomers of the copolymer is within the range of 10 to 90 mol%.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The <u>method for preparing the PHA</u> block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of the copolymer is approximately in the range of several tens of thousands to several millions.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The <u>method for preparing the PHA</u> block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer further comprises not more than 70 mol% of a hydroxy acid repeating group of Formula 3, based on the total polymer:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \leftarrow O - CH - CH_2 - C - \rightarrow_{\overline{q}} \\ & & | & | \\ (CH_2)_p & O \\ & & | \\ CH_3 & & (Formula 3) \end{array}$$

wherein p and q are independently not less than 2.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method <u>for preparing the PHA block copolymer</u> according to claim <u>81</u>, wherein the PHA block copolymer is prepared by culturing the *Pseudomonas* sp. HJ-2 strain with supply of heptanoic acid as a sole carbon source.

10-14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method for preparing [[a]] the PHA block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the PHA block copolymer is prepared by culturing a microorganism transformed with a short-chain-length PHA synthetic gene of a *Pseudomonas* sp. HJ-2 strain capable of biosynthesizing a PHA block copolymer of claim Claim 1 or by cell-free protein synthesis using the same gene.

16-19. (Cancelled)